

**ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

The invention provides a cDNA which encodes an intelectin, ITL. It also provides for the use of the cDNA, fragments, complements, and variants thereof and of the encoded protein, portions thereof and antibodies thereto for diagnosis and treatment of colon disorders, particularly colon cancer and colon polyps. The invention additionally provides expression vectors and host cells for the production of the protein and a transgenic model system.